



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS**

**KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, June 26, 2013

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-3134)

Present: Eleanor R. Montaño, Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio,
Commissioner Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Donald S. Andrews
and Commissioner Susan Burton

Excused: Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D. and Commissioner Anne S.
Hill

Call to Order. (13-2928)

Chairperson Montaño called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**Chairperson Montaño led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a
moment of silence. Vice Chairperson Bacio joined the meeting at
10:06 a.m. and Commissioner Bigby at 10:10 a.m.**

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Approval of the June 19, 2013 Minutes. (13-2929)

**On motion of Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio, seconded by Commissioner
Donald S. Andrews and unanimously carried, the minutes of June 19, 2013
were approved.**

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

2. Treasurer's Report for July 3, 2013. (13-3163)

**Chairperson Montaño requested that this item be continued to the July 3,
2013 meeting.**

3. Review and recommendations on the possible revisions to the Sybil Brand
Commission scholarship application. (13-0800)

Commissioner Burton recommended that preference should be given to the youth from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation Department (PD), when soliciting for potential candidates who may qualify to receive the Commission's Annual Scholarship Fund. She urged the Commission to take into consideration the role of the Commission which is primarily to inspect the group homes and Probation camps to ensure the safety and well-being of the youth, as well as, finding other ways to help enhance their lives. Vice Chairperson Bacio and Commissioner Bigby concurred with Chairperson Montañó's clarification that the scholarship application was extended to the foster youth in the past because the Commission did not receive applications from DCFS and PD youth. After further discussion, the Commissioners concurred that adequate follow up may increase the response rate in the future.

On motion of Commissioner Susan Burton, seconded by Commissioner Barbara Bigby and unanimously carried, the Commission decided on the following:

- The Commission will include in the Sybil Brand Commission scholarship application a clause that states that the DCFS and PD youth will receive priority.
- The Commissioners will identify potential candidates when they conduct their group home and Probation camp inspections during the months leading to the scholarship application filing period.
- The Commissioners will leave copies of blank scholarship application forms with the site supervisors for distribution.
- The Commissioners will note the name and the group home of the potential candidate on the Commission's group home inspection form for follow up.
- During the last month leading to the scholarship application filing deadline, staff shall follow up with the potential applicants and/or the site supervisors to encourage the youth to submit their application packages by the deadline.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

4. Chairperson's Report on various items for June 26, 2013. (13-2932)

Chairperson Montañó shared the following Newspaper Articles:

- **Los Angeles Times:**
 - **Failing our children (June 24, 2013)**
 - **Doing right by DCFS (June 25, 2013)**
 - **Children's agency targeted for reforms (June 26, 2013)**
- **Daily Breeze:**
 - **Boy's death may lead to probe (June 24, 2013)**
 - **Failure to protect children is focus (June 26, 2013)**

Chairperson Montaña excused herself from the meeting to attend the Annual System Improvement Plan (SIP) Conference that was held at the Radisson Hotel Los Angeles near the University of Southern California.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

5. Treasurer's Report for June 26, 2013. (13-2933)

Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio reported that the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1390.96. He also stated that there is an encumbrance of \$900 which would leave the account balance at \$490.96. He further stated that the Commission's Charitable Fund is kept at the Los Angeles Unified School District Credit Union that provides its clients bank statements upon request.

6. Staff Report on Correspondence Received and Department Representative Reports for June 26, 2013. (13-2934)

Ms. Bolaji Famuyiwa, Staff, Commission Services, handed the compliance monitoring audit review reports that were received from the Los Angeles County Probation Department to Vice Chairperson.

7. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports presented on June 26, 2013. (13-2935)

In Compliance:

- **Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited Fleming and Barnes Dimondale Adolescent #1, Page 17, #4, on June 25, 2013.**
- **Commissioners Bigby and Hill visited Girl Republic, Page 3, #3, on June 25, 2013.**

No One Home:

- **Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited South Bay Optimist Boys Home, Page 29, #3, on June 24, 2013.**

During the review of the Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports presented by Commissioner Andrews, Vice Chair Bacio inquired if Commissioner Andrews and Chairperson Montaña conducted their regular inspections of the group homes on the same day as the audit follow-up inspections. Commissioner Andrews responded that, that has been their practice. Commissioner Andrews continued that since the audit reviews are being conducted as a courtesy to the County departments, and the County pays the Commissioners for those visits, it is his opinion that it will be most beneficial to the County if the Commissioners conduct the regular inspections at the same time as the audit follow-up inspections.

Vice Chairperson Bacio and Commissioners Bigby and Burton indicated that their practices were to the contrary. They conduct their audit follow-up inspections separate from the regular inspections. Commissioner Bigby further added that there have been instances when the date intervals between the regular inspections and the audit follow-up inspections have been very close; and it would be redundant to conduct the regular inspection with the audit follow-up inspection again. However, she clarified that if her regularly assigned inspection coincides with the audit follow-up inspection, she will do both.

Commissioner Burton added that she takes no exception to either process, as long as good judgment is exercised by the Commissioners to ensure the safety and well-being of the youth. After further discussion, Vice Chairperson Bacio clarified that combining the audit review and the regular inspection should be at the Commissioner's discretion as the circumstances may vary.

Commissioner Burton also expressed concern and a conversation ensued regarding the duplication in the assignment of the regular group home inspections. Commissioner Andrews stated that considering the issues/history of some of the former Commissioners, it is his opinion that the Chairperson should have the laxity to inspect the group homes and Probation camps at any time even if they have been assigned to other Commissioners. Vice Chairperson Bacio recommended that if the Chair does decide to inspect sites in other districts, courtesy should be exercised by the Chairperson by advising and inviting the assigned Commissioners to accompany her to the inspection. This item will be placed on the

next meeting's agenda for further deliberation.

Also raised was the concern regarding the frequency of the jails and lock up inspections. Commissioner Burton expressed that the Commissioners' restrictions and limitations to how many times the jails should be inspected should be lifted. Commissioner Andrews stated that the Chair's concern regarding the jails inspection is that when Commissioners show up for the jail inspection they do not stay through the entire inspection process. Commissioner Burton clarified that during the Commission's last visit to Men's Central Jail (MCJ), she allotted a two hour time frame, however, the inspection lasted more than two hours and yet the Commissioners were not able to cover all the grounds because of the size of the facility. She continued that increasing the amount of times the Commissioners visit the jails will help the Commissioners to cover more grounds, and also result in more productive use of the allotted time.

Commissioner Bigby concurred with the recommendation that the Commissioners should visit the jails more often as the current schedule is insufficient, adding that each time the Commissioners have visited MCJ, they have been restricted to inspect certain areas of the jail facility, which limits their ability to cover larger grounds. This item will be placed on the next meeting agenda for further deliberation.

8. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from June 20, 2013 to June 25, 2013. (13-2936)

During the reporting period, the following Group Homes/Facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

- Commissioner Bigby visited Penny Lane (Satelite #4), Page 33, #3, on June 20, 2013.

During the reporting period, the following Group Home was visited, but not inspected because no one was at home:

- Vice Chairperson Bacio visited San Gabriel Children's Center (RT1), Page 36, #4 on June 25, 2013.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

9. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters

requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-2937)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

10. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-2938)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

11. Adjournment for the meeting of June 26, 2013. (13-2939)

There being no further business, Vice Chairperson Bacio adjourned the meeting of June 26, 2013 at 11:54 a.m. in memory of Gabriel Fernandez.